

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An aesthetically acceptable toothbrush manufactured from preformed components comprising:
the toothbrush formed from at least two preformed thermoplastic toothbrush components, ~~which are welded together by heating each respective component with a hot air weld joining said components~~ to form a toothbrush having acceptable peel resistant strength, said joining weld defined by material forming said components; said preformed toothbrush components being selected from the group consisting of at least a part of a head, a neck and a handle, and combinations thereof, said preformed toothbrush components having a different melt flow rate from each other and wherein at least one of said preformed toothbrush components is elastomeric.
2. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 15 in-lbs. (1.69 joules).
3. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 18 in-lbs. (2.03 joules).
4. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 20 in-lbs. (2.26 joules).
- 5-6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1, wherein three preformed components or parts thereof are welded together to form a toothbrush.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) An aesthetically acceptable toothbrush manufactured from preformed components comprising:

the toothbrush formed from at least two preformed toothbrush components, which are welded together to form a toothbrush; said preformed toothbrush components being selected from the group consisting of at least a part of a head, a neck and a handle, and combinations thereof, wherein said components are of different thermoplastic materials having melt flow rates which differ by more than 5 g/10 min.

10. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein at least one of said components is elastomeric.

11-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 15 in-lbs. (1.69 joules).

27. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 18 in-lbs. (2.03 joules).

28. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein said weld has a break strength to withstand a peel force of at least 20 in-lbs. (2.26 joules).

29. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein said at least one of said components is elastomeric.

30. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein a head and a handle are welded by heating each respective component with hot air.

31. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 9, wherein three preformed components or parts thereof are welded together to form a toothbrush.

32. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 31, wherein at least one of said preformed components is elastomeric.